



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<i>Alluvial -</i>	Of and/or relating to river and stream deposits
<i>Amphibian -</i>	A class of carnivorous, ectotherms (body temperature regulated by outside heat sources) whose living members have a moist, glandular skin that is permeable to water and gases. Most amphibians have a well-defined aquatic, larval stage in their life cycle and then undergo metamorphosis into adults. Depending on the species, adults may occupy aquatic or terrestrial habitats. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are examples.
<i>Biological Diversity -</i>	The variety of life forms and processes, including the complete natural complex of species, communities, genes, and ecological functions.
<i>Biological Integrity -</i>	Biotic composition, structure, and functioning at genetic, organism, and community levels consistent with natural conditions, including the natural biological processes that shape genomes, organisms, and communities.
<i>Biomass -</i>	The weight of all life in a specified unit of environment or an expression of the total mass or weight of a given population, both plant and animal.
<i>Bloom -</i>	A readily visible concentrated growth or aggregation of plankton (plant and animal).
<i>Community -</i>	All the groups of organisms living together in the same area, usually interacting or depending on each other for existence.
<i>Cumulative Effects -</i>	Those effects on the environment that result from the incremental effect of the action when added to the past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.
<i>Dissolved Oxygen -</i>	Amount of oxygen dissolved in water.
<i>Drainage Basin -</i>	An area mostly bound by ridges or other similar topographic features, encompassing part, most, or all of a watershed.



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<i>Ecology -</i>	The study of the relations between organisms and the totality of the biological and physical factors affecting them or influenced by them.
<i>Ecological Integrity -</i>	The integration of biological integrity, natural biological diversity, and environmental health; the replication of natural conditions.
<i>Ecosystem -</i>	An ecological system; the interaction of living organisms and the nonliving environment producing an exchange of materials between the living and nonliving.
<i>Ecosystem Approach -</i>	A strategy or plan to manage ecosystems to provide for all associated organisms, as opposed to a strategy or plan for managing individual or clusters of species.
<i>Ecosystem Management -</i>	Management of an ecosystem that includes all ecological, social, and economic components which make up the whole of the system.
<i>Effects -</i>	Effects, impacts, and consequences, as used in the environmental assessment, are synonymous. Effects may be direct, indirect, or cumulative.
<i>Endangered Species -</i>	Any species of plant or animal defined through the Endangered Species Act as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and published in the Federal Register.
<i>Environmental Analysis -</i>	An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable short-term and long-term environmental effects, incorporating physical, biological, economic, and social considerations.
<i>Environmental Assessment -</i>	A systematic analysis of site-specific or programmatic activities used to determine whether such activities have a significant effect on the quality of the physical, biological, and human environment and whether a formal environmental impact statement is required; and to aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act when no environmental impact statement is necessary.
<i>Environmental Health -</i>	Abiotic composition, structure, and functioning of the environment consistent with natural conditions, including the natural abiotic processes that shape the environment.



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<i>Eutrophication -</i>	The intentional or unintentional enrichment of water.
<i>Fauna -</i>	All the animals of a particular region or a particular era.
<i>Flora -</i>	All the plants of a particular region or a particular era.
<i>Food Chain -</i>	The dependence of organisms upon others in a series of food. The chain begins with plants or scavenging organisms and ends with the largest carnivores.
<i>Goals -</i>	Broad statements of direction; end results or positions to be achieved.
<i>Hardness -</i>	A measurement of the content of dissolved calcium and magnesium in water.
<i>Hydrology -</i>	The science of water in the hydrological cycle, the sun-driven movement of water between aquatic and terrestrial environments and the atmosphere, including evapostranspiration, condensation, precipitation, and runoff.
<i>Impoundment -</i>	A natural or artificial body of water that is held back by a dam.
<i>Interdisciplinary Team -</i>	A group of individuals with varying areas of expertise assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team is assembled out of recognition that no one scientific discipline is sufficiently broad enough to adequately analyze the problem and propose action.
<i>Invertebrate -</i>	An animal without a backbone or internal bony skeleton. Insects, crustaceans, worms, corals, and molluscs are examples.
<i>Mesic -</i>	Describing an environment having moderate rainfall and moderately moist, well-drained soils. Mesic plants are those that require moisture.
<i>Monitoring -</i>	A process of collecting information to evaluate if an objective and/or anticipated or assumed results of a management plan are being realized (effectiveness monitoring) or if implementation is proceeding as planned (implementation monitoring).



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National Environmental Policy Act -

An Act passed by the U.S. Congress in 1969 to declare a national policy that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between humankind and the environment, promotes efforts that prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of humanity, enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation, and establishes a Council on Environmental Quality.

Natural Conditions -

Conditions thought to exist from the end of the Medieval Warm Period to the advent of the industrial era (app. 950AD to 1800AD), based upon scientific study and sound professional judgement.

Objectives -

Intermediate-term targets necessary for the satisfaction of Refuge goals; quantifiable measures that serve as indicators against which attainment, or progress toward attainment, of goals can be measured.

pH -

A measure of the relative concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution; indicating the acidity or alkalinity of the solution. A pH value of 7 indicates a neutral solution; values that are greater than 7 are basic, and those below 7 are acidic. Vinegar has a pH of 3; ocean water has a pH of approximately 8.

Reptile -

A class of vertebrates whose skin is dry, lacking in glands, and covered with scales. Claws are present and skull, limb bones, vertebrae, muscles, and so forth are stronger and more advanced than those of amphibians. Egg fertilization is internal, there is no larval stage, and eggs have a protective, hard shell.

Riparian Area -

A geographic area containing an aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent upland areas that directly affects it. This includes floodplain, and associated woodland, rangeland, or other related upland areas. Pertaining to the banks of streams, lakes, wetlands, or tidewater.

Riparian Zones -

Terrestrial areas where the vegetation complex and micro-climate conditions are products of the combined presence and influence of perennial and/or intermittent



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water, associated high water tables, and soils that exhibit some wetness characteristics. Normally used to refer to the zone within which plants grow rooted in the water table of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, springs, marshes, seeps, bogs, and wet meadows.

Savanna -

A community that was historically bordered by the prairies of the west and the deciduous forests of the east. It is a community type that falls in the middle of a continuum from prairie to forest. Savannas characteristically have less than 50 percent tree crown cover.

Sedge -

A grass-like plant, usually having a three-sided stem and clearly three-ranked leaves. The pistil, a female flower part, is surrounded by a sac-like or flask-shaped structure called the *perygium*.

Sedimentation -

The settling-out or deposition of suspended materials.

Sensitive Species -

Those plant or animal species for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by a significant current or potential downward trend in population numbers, distribution, density, or habitat capability.

Species Richness -

The number of different species in a given area.

Stakeholder -

Any group or individual who is affected by or who can affect the future of the Refuge.

Step-Down Management Plans -

Tactical plans that describe in detail specific strategies and implementation schedules for management functions (e.g., habitat management, public use, fire, safety, etc).

Strategic Framework -

A pattern of purposes, policies, programs, actions, decisions, or resource allocations that describe what the Refuge is, what it does, and why it does it.

Strategies -

Step-down approaches that could be used to meet Refuge goals and objectives; provide direction for defining and coordinating operational tasks to effectively perform the Refuge's purpose.

Succession -

A gradual change from one community to another and characterized by a progressive change in species structure, an increase in biomass and organic matter



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Threatened Species -

accumulation, and a gradual balance between community production and community respiration.

Those plant or animal species likely to become endangered species throughout all or a significant portion of their range within the foreseeable future. A plant or animal identified and defined in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the Federal Register.

Total Dissolved Solids -

A measure of the total quantity of dissolved substances contained in water or effluent, including organic matter, minerals, and other inorganic substances.

Viable Population -

A viable population is one which has such numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals as to provide a high likelihood that a species will continue to exist and be well-distributed throughout its range.

Warm Season Grasses -

A grass that grows most during the warmest seasons of the year.

Watershed -

The drainage basin contributing water, organic matter, dissolved nutrients, and sediments to a water body.

Watershed Analysis -

A systematic procedure for characterizing watershed and ecological processes to meet specific management and social objectives. Watershed analysis is a stratum of ecosystem management planning applied to watersheds.

Watershed Restoration -

Actions taken to improve the current conditions of a watershed to restore degraded habitat, and to provide long-term protection to natural resources, including riparian, terrestrial, and aquatic resources.

Watershed Treatments -

Specific actions or tools to satisfy the goals and objectives of a watershed project. These may include establishing permanent vegetation on sensitive areas within the watershed (riparian buffers, stream bank stabilization, erosion-prone areas); establishing permanent wildlife habitat for dependent species (warm/cool season grasses, wetlands, sediment retention, erosion, or water control structure basins, field/farmstead windbreaks, shelter rows, and winter food plots); and encouraging Best Management Practices (BMP's) on agricultural lands (strip-cropping systems, terraces, diversions, contour farming, cropland protective cover, conservation tillage, feedlot and manure management).